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By Linda Amerighi at 10:53 am, Oct 01, 2021

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on September 28, 2021 In-person following COVID guidelines at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, invited Sharon Housing Authority members Whelan and Manasse; invited BOF members Bartram, Robertson, Bancroft, Flaton, Ensign and O'Kelly; John Brett, John Hecht, Eliza Klose, Robert Lindgren, Katy Kinsolving, Jill Drew, Roger Lourie, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

First Selectmen Colley called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Item to be added to agenda as 9a – revised estimated expense budget for the ARPA Advisory Committee. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda with this addition, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The BOS invited members of the SHA and the BOF to this meeting to discuss a financial situation regarding the SHA bridge loan with Salisbury Bank & Trust Company for their HVAC project with Eversource at the Ridge totaling \$105,000 which is due. The whole project totaled \$204,500 with an energy incentive Grant from Eversource that the SHA believed to be in the amount of \$102,250 with the balance being a 4 year zero percent loan with Eversource. The Eversource loan covered the installation of the new HVAC systems but not the actual equipment which needed to be purchased and paid for, then reimbursed which the SHA was lead to believe the Grant would cover. The full Grant for some reason did not come through so there is balance due on the loan of approximately \$105,000. The July 16, 2020 Town Meeting approved "to authorize an allocation of \$100,000 to provide a Reserve for any potential liability that the Town may have to pay on the SHA promissory note from Eversource that the Town has acted as a grantor on as approved at the December 13, 2019 Town Meeting". Mr. Manasse and Mrs. Whelan emphasized that the SHA wants to be able to pay their own bills, which includes the loan, through the rents but had requested the Reserve just in case the total rents were not paid. This situation has arrived as the full Eversource Grant did not come through. Re-doing the loan with the Bank is an option but the SHA needs to figure out what they can afford to pay monthly. At this point the request to the BOS/BOF/Town Meeting is to change the wording in which the Reserve would cover the loan from Eversource to Salisbury Bank & Trust Company as the funds are for the same purpose, just a different entity. Board of Finance members had various questions. With all questions asked, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS recommends to the Board of Finance to Town Meeting that the language be changed in so that the \$100,000 Reserve be for any potential liability on the SHA promissory note from Salisbury Bank & Trust Company, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. BOF and SHA members left the meeting.

If anyone wishes to speak on an agenda item when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know.

Two corrections needed to be made in the September 14, 2021 minutes: 1st page, 7th paragraph, end of 5th line "were" and 8th paragraph, add Brent Prindle being from the Sharon Connect Task Force. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The Sharon Connect Task Force submitted their recommendation for selecting the winning bidder for the RFP to conduct a Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis along with their reasoning. The Analysis will give the Town a good Plan for the next step forward – fund the actual fiber-to-the premises

network for the Town, what the cost would be and how it could be done. The Task Force recommended that Sertex Broadband Solutions be selected as the winning bidder at a bid price of \$30,000. Mrs. Drew asked if it would be okay if the Task Force sent emails to the winning and losing bidders tonight and if the BOS selects a firm just to let them know of the decision – draft emails were read. The BOS agreed to this. Of course the BOS would be in direct contact with the winning bidder in order to proceed with a contract. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the Town of Sharon use Sertex Broadband Solutions as recommended by the Broadband Task Force to conduct the feasibility analysis, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The Task Force was thanked for all their work in this process.

As part of the State required Affordable Housing Plan, the NW Hills COG has offered a Fee-For-Service Agreement. The Plan has to be completed by Oct. 31, 2022. The Town could use COG or find another source for assistance. The Grant that the Town received, with COG's help, would pay for their assistance in getting the Plan done. The COG is working with 9 other towns in the region to get their Plan done. They have the experience. Shortly, the Selectmen need to select a "Housing Plan Steering Committee" that would work with the Planning Consultant on the development of the Plan. The Agreement was reviewed. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the Fee-For-Service Agreement from the COG, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. Mr. Jones offered to be the BOS representative on the Committee.

The ad was placed in the Lakeville Journal and on the Town Website for the temporary Administrator for the ARPA Advisory Committee. Resumes are due October 1, 2021 by 4PM. Mrs. Drew asked if the Co-Chairs of the Committee could sit in on the interviews – yes they can.

The ARPA Advisory Committee approved a revised estimated expense budget and has submitted it to the BOS for approval. The estimated first year expenses are between \$8,308 and \$11,236 – under 2% of the total funds to be received. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the budgeted first year expenditures of up to \$11,236, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Mr. Colley stated that he is formulating the letters to those who need to receive them concerning speed humps on Hilltop Road: Road Crew, Fire Department, Ambulance, Sharon Center School and bus company. He will have the Board review them before they are sent out. The Board reviewed the Policy procedures so that all concerned are on the same page and that this issue moves forward. Mr. Flanagan asked if the Town needs to hire an engineer. Mr. Colley felt that the only advantage would be to get information on where to place the humps if done. Once the Board gets the feed-back from the entities we received the letters, then the Board will see where they go from there. Mr. Jones reported on a conversation that he had with Officer Kyle Nodden of Farmington – his notes are attached. Mr. Bancroft as about the possibility of a town wide survey – this could be via the website. Mr. Hecht made some comments. Mr. Colley was asked to check with the Town Attorney and CIRMA (the town's insurance carrier) what if any, what the town's liability would be if speed humps are installed or other alterations are done to the road. Mr. Jones commented that he would be interested to see what an engineer would say about speed humps or any recommendations that he/she may have. In reviewing the Speed-Hump Procedures, it was noted that the BOS is obligated to have a public hearing.

Mr. Colley explained that the Highway Department is looking into replacing the 2013 International which has had over \$35,000 in repairs done. The Crew has looked at multiple trucks and they feel a Mac Truck is the best choice – a body/chassis costs between \$115,000 & \$119,000. The delivery time is between 14 & 16 months. The dealer that they have been working with said that all they would need in order to start the purchase would be a Purchase Order. The Board agreed that it makes sense to start looking. Bob Duncan, Tom Bartram and Jamie Reid are working on an Equipment Replacement Plan that would

show approximately when to replace what vehicle and the approximate cost. Mr. Flanagan stated that he would like to see the Plan before any decision is made on that purchase of a new truck. The Board agreed with this.

Mary O'Reilly submitted her resignation for the position of Social Service Agent as of September 24, 2021. An ad has been placed in the Lakeville Journal and on the Town Website with resumes due Oct. 8, 2021 by 4PM. Donna DiMartino has submitted a letter stating that she would be willing to work 21 hours a week to complete the work of this position until the Town can find a qualified candidate. Mrs. O'Reilly has stated that she would be willing to handle the fuel assistance applications until she can get either Mrs. DiMartino or her replacement trained. The Board felt this was a good offer and were willing to accept it and pay her the same hourly wage. After a short discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept Mrs. O'Reilly's resignation, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. Mr. Jones made a motion to hire Donna DiMartino as the Town's Interim Social Service Agent at the same hourly rate as Mrs. O'Reilly until the position is filled permanently, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

October 15, 2021 at 3PM is the tentative date and time for the informational meeting with the Lieutenant of Troop B. Hopefully it can be held at the pavilion.

Three individuals need to be re-appointed to the Sharon Energy & Environment Commission with terms to expire October 9, 2023: Carolyn Mattoon, Oscar Martinez and Katy Kinsolving. All are interested in continuing on this Commission. Mr. Jones made a motion to make the re-appointments with gratitude for their work, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

William Manasse's term on the Sharon Housing Authority expires October 29, 2021. He is willing to continue. Mr. Jones made a motion to re-appoint to the Sharon Housing Authority with a term to expire October 29, 2026 and with gratitude, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Paul Bacsik has submitted his resignation from the Sharon Conservation Commission. Mr. Bacsik spearheaded the Air Quality devise when the Cricket Power station opened in Dover Plains, NY. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the resignation with thanks for years of service, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The Tax Collector has submitted a request for a tax refund for Honda Lease Trust in the amount of \$68.19 – an over payment of a motor vehicle tax. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The Day Care Sharon Classic Road Race was held this past weekend and they had a good turnout.

The State is working on paving Route 4.

With nothing further, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

Offic. Kyle Nodden

Farrington

- * speed people up - they race b/t hump
- * no longer installing them - (2 left)
got reports - no new ones in about 10 years
- * damage to town vehicles -
- * costly to install maintain -
- * speed signs are good -
rotational positioning -
- * Can't permanently stop speeding.
- * people get comfortable so they go faster
- * Drivers not going as fast as you think.